

A highly decorated and distinguished leader, ADM Keating has served our country honorably for over three decades. I commend him for his invaluable contributions to our Nation's defense and know that U.S. Pacific Command will benefit from his extensive experience.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF  
SAMUEL CARLMAN BURTON

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 7, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Samuel Carlman Burton. As the first principal of Mattie T. Blount High School in Prichard, Alabama, Mr. Burton worked tirelessly for the growth and development of his students and of his school.

Mr. Burton served Prichard as the principal of Mattie T. Blount High School from 1957 to 1979, and before that was an employee of the Mobile County Public School System for eight years. He also served as principal of Mount Vernon Elementary School.

Fond of quoting from "The Bridge Builder" by Will Allen Dromgoole, Sam Burton often talked about the legacy teachers and educators leave for future generations. The poem's last lines read: "He, too, must cross in the twilight dim; Good friend, I am building the bridge for him."

Mr. Burton is survived by his daughter Sallie Johnson of Mobile; his brother Frederick Burton of Atlanta; his granddaughter Carlee Johnson of Mobile; and two great-granddaughters, Adrian Johnson and Emily Johnson of Mobile. I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Samuel Carlman Burton, a principal who spent his life building bridges.

TRIBUTE TO THE 250TH BIRTHDAY  
OF THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 7, 2007*

Mr. CANTOR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 250th birthday of the Marquis de Lafayette, born 6 September 1757.

By the age of 20, Lafayette had already served for several years as an officer in the French army. Inspired by the concept of American independence, in 1777 Lafayette came to the United States to volunteer his services, and was appointed a Major General by the Continental Congress.

He became a stalwart friend of General George Washington, and also of future President James Monroe. Lafayette fought and was wounded at Brandywine, and wintered at Valley Forge.

Returning to France late in 1778 to rally support for the American cause, he was instrumental in France's decision to join the Revolutionary War in support of the United States. He returned to America in 1780 to help lead a new infusion of French troops.

Working closely with General George Washington, Lafayette led the French forces which helped to trap Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, and forced the British surrender there in October 1781.

After the victory at Yorktown, Lafayette returned to France, but came back to the United States in 1794 at the invitation of President George Washington, and again in 1824–1825 at the invitation of President James Monroe.

Declared an honorary citizen of both the United States and Virginia, the Marquis de Lafayette truly played a vital role in the American Revolution.

In Virginia, in celebration of Lafayette's 250th birthday, ceremonies will be held in Richmond by various historical and lineage societies on Saturday, September 8 at Mason's Hall, the State Capitol and the John Marshall House, all venues visited by Lafayette, to commemorate this anniversary.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Marquis de Lafayette on his birthday.

THE PRAIRIE ROSE CHAPTER OF  
THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN  
REVOLUTION SALUTES  
CONSTITUTION WEEK

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 7, 2007*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, the week of September 17–23 has been officially designated as Constitution Week. This marks the 220th anniversary of the signing of our Constitution.

The guardian of our liberties, our Constitution established our republic as a self-governing nation dedicated to rule by law. This document is the cornerstone of our freedom. It was written to protect every American from the abuse of power by government. Without that restraint, our founders believed the republic would perish.

The ideals upon which our Constitution is based are reinforced each day by the success of our political system to which it gave birth. The success of our way of government requires an enlightened citizenry.

Constitution Week provides an opportunity for all Americans to recall the achievements of our founders, the nature of limited government, and the rights, privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. It provides us the opportunity to be better informed about our rights, freedoms and duties as citizens.

Madam Speaker, at this time I particularly want to take note of the outstanding work of the Prairie Rose Chapter of the Kansas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which is actively involved in the Third Congressional District in events this week commemorating Constitution Week. The Prairie Rose Chapter has been involved with this effort in our communities for a number of years and I commend them for doing so.

Our Constitution has served us well for over 200 years, but it will continue as a strong, vibrant, and vital foundation for freedom only so long as the American people remain dedicated to the basic principles on which it rests. Thus, as the United States continues into its third century of constitutional democracy, let us renew our commitment to, in the words of our Constitution's preamble: "form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the

Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity . . ." I know that the Prairie Rose Chapter of the Kansas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution joins with me in urging all Americans to renew their commitment to, and understanding of, our Constitution, particularly during our current time of crisis, when Americans are fighting overseas to defend our liberties here at home.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 7, 2007*

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, on September 5, 2007, I missed 1 recorded vote. I take my voting responsibility very seriously. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on recorded vote No. 853.

CONGRATULATING HENRY L.  
AARON ON HIS INDUCTION INTO  
THE ALABAMA ACADEMY OF  
HONOR

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 7, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Henry L. Aaron on the occasion of his induction into the Alabama Academy of Honor.

Henry Aaron, who is better known to his fans throughout the world as "Hank," set more major league batting records than any player in the game's history and held Major League Baseball's record for home runs until just last month. The Mobile native was inducted into the baseball Hall of Fame in 1982, and played for the Milwaukee Braves, the Atlanta Braves, and the Milwaukee Brewers.

Created in 1965, the Alabama Academy of Honor was created to recognize living Alabamians for their accomplishments and service that greatly benefits or reflects credit on the state of Alabama. Ten members may be elected annually by the Academy of Honor with no greater than 100 living members at a time.

Madam Speaker, the following tribute was presented to Hank Aaron at his ceremony of induction into the Academy in 2007. With your permission, I would like to add this tribute to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HENRY L. AARON

Henry L. Aaron rewrote the hitting records book during a stellar career in major league baseball. Today he is senior vice president of Atlanta National League Baseball Club, Inc.—the Atlanta Braves—and is a successful businessman and civic leader.

Born in 1934 in Mobile, Aaron was a star student athlete in football and baseball, playing semi-pro in the latter sport while still in high school. He was later signed by the Indianapolis Clowns and helped lead that team to win the 1952 Negro League World Series. That same year he was signed by the Boston (later Milwaukee, then Atlanta) Braves. He dominated both Braves farm teams he was on, and by 1954 was in the major leagues, homering in his first spring